CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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Declaration
by the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in connexion with the Ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In connexion with the adoption by the Federal Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of the Law on the Ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Government of Yugoslavia wishes to reaffirm its conviction that the Treaty will contribute to the cessation of the nuclear arms race, facilitate the setting in motion of the process of nuclear disarmament and stimulate the trend towards general and complete disarmament. The Government of Yugoslavia attaches great importance to further efforts by all countries to create a universal system of international security that would ensure a lasting peace and create conditions for an accelerated development in the whole world. Although the realization of this objective necessarily calls for an essential change in the existing practices in international relations, which are so often characterized by inequality, interference in internal affairs of other countries and the power policy, the Government of Yugoslavia considers that the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and similar collateral measures, can constitute a beneficial contribution to the search for peace and international security.

On this occasion the Government of Yugoslavia wishes to recall that prior to the signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had been exerting efforts, together with other countries, to eliminate some of its deficiencies in order to make it more acceptable to the non-nuclear-weapon states. These efforts have produced definite results. Many of these positions are contained in the memorandum of the Government of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Commission on Disarmament dated 3 May 1965 and in the Statement of 11 April 1968, issued by the Government of Yugoslavia relating to the problem of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In this connexion the Government of Yugoslavia wishes to set forth the motives and expectations which have guided it in proposing to the Federal Assembly to ratify the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Government of Yugoslavia, viewing this Treaty against the background of the search for peace, general and complete disarmament, international security and development,

1. Considers the ban on the development, manufacture and use of nuclear weapons and the destruction of all stockpiles of them to be indispensable for the maintenance of a stable peace and international security, and expects the nuclear-weapon powers to display, with this objective in mind, their willingness to conclude a convention on the general renunciation of the threat on use of nuclear weapons.

2. Holds the view that the chief responsibility for the progress in this direction rests with the nuclear-weapon powers and expects them to show maximum good will and determination to embark upon that road, a matter made obligatory upon them also by the fact that non-nuclear-weapon states, party to the Treaty have voluntarily renounced to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

3. Expects that the already initiated talks between the super powers relating to containment and cessation of the race in the development and production of the strategic nuclear arms will be expanded also to the so-called tactical nuclear weapons and lead to the prohibition of the stationing of these arms in the areas free thereof, to the withdrawal from alien territories within one's own state borders and to the discontinuance of the training of the non-nuclear-weapon states' armed forces in the use of nuclear weapons, creating thereby favourable conditions for even more far-reaching measures in the field of nuclear disarmament.

4. Lends its support to every action aimed at creating nuclear-weapon-free zones and the thinned armament zones, as significant measures for the easing of tensions and strengthening of international security.

5. Notes that the continuance of nuclear weapons test is inconsistent with the spirit and letter of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and considers it indispensable for the nuclear-weapon powers to initiate, at an early date, negotiations for the completion of the Moscow Agreement.

6. Attaches special importance to finding a satisfactory solution to the problem of safeguarding the security of non-nuclear-weapon states and expects nuclear-weapon powers, on one hand, to undertake not to use nuclear weapons against the countries having renounced them as well as against non-nuclear-weapon states in general, and to refrain from the threat to use them, and, on the other hand, expects that in the event of such a threat, the United Nations will act in a manner as shall ensure effective protection of the non-nuclear-weapon states.

7. Considers that the Non-Proliferation Treaty makes all the states parties entitled to full and unhampered utilization, on a non-discriminatory basis, of all the achievements of nuclear activities for peaceful purposes, including nuclear explosions, through appropriate international procedures yet to be established.

8. Believes that all countries will be ensured the same treatment with regard to the contents and modalities of control of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and that the expenditure for the system of control will be regulated in a way not burdening the non-nuclear-weapon states and, in particular, the developing countries.

9. Requests the nuclear-weapon states parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to render all the appropriate assistance to the non-nuclear-weapon states in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and expects the International Atomic Energy Agency to adjust itself more fully to the current needs of the international community, particularly to those of the developing countries.

The Government of Yugoslavia emphasizes once again the great significance it attaches to the universality of the efforts relating to the realization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in the belief that all the states parties will make their greatest possible contribution to have the spirit and letter of the Non-Proliferation Treaty fully, and constructively applied, in order to facilitate, inter alia, the accession of all countries to the Treaty.

Beograd, 27 February 1970.